CLAIMS

1. An article formed at least partially from at least one metal sheet and incorporating at least one lockseam that interconnects adjacent edge margins of the at least one sheet, the lockseam including a region where the edge margins overlap and wherein at least one of the edge margins has a coating applied to it that is disposed in the overlap and forms a gasket to provide a watertight joint at the lockseam.
2. An article according to claim 1, wherein both edges in the overlap incorporate the coating and wherein the coating of one edge is in engagement with the coating of the other edge in the overlap to form the watertight joint.
3. An article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the coating is compressed in the overlap.
4. An article according to claim 3, wherein the coating is compressed by an amount in the range of 10 - 50% of its original thickness.
5. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the coating is in the form of a polymeric film.
6. An article according to claim 5, wherein the polymeric film is applied across at least one of the major surfaces of the at least one sheet so as to provide a moisture barrier and/or to enhance the chemical resistance of the sheet.
7. An article according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the polymeric film is selected from the group consisting of: low density or high density polyethylene, PVC, and polypropylene.
8. An article according to claim 7, wherein the thickness of the film is in the range of 100 to 400 microns.
9. An article according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the coating is applied only along the at least one edge margin.
10. A metal article according to claim 9, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of low density or high density polyethylene, PVC, polypropylene, natural or synthetic rubber.

11. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickness of the metal sheet is between 0.35 - 3.00mm.

12. A metal article according to any preceding claim, wherein the metal sheet is steel that incorporates a corrosion resistant metal coating.

13. A metal article according to any preceding claim, wherein one edge margin is disposed around the other edge margin so that the one edge margin abuts both sides of the other edge margin.

14. A metal article according to any preceding claim, wherein the edge margins in the overlap are generally flat.

15. A metal article according to claims 1 to 13, wherein the edge margins in the overlap are cambered.

16. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the article is a metal pipe.

17. An article according to claim 16, wherein the article is a metal spiral wound pipe.

18. An article according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the article is a metal tank.

19. A method of forming a watertight joint between two edge margins formed of metal sheet, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one of the two edge margins with a coating applied to it; and

interconnecting the edge margins to form a lockseam, the edge regions being arranged to overlap in the lockseam with the coating being located in the overlap between the metal sheets.

20. A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of:

applying pressure to the edge margins so as to compress the coating in the lockseam.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein a clinching force is applied to the edge margins so as to compress the coating in the lockseam.

22. A method according to either claim 21 or 22, wherein pressure is applied to the edge margins so as to compress the coating in the lockseam by an amount in the range of 10 - 50% of its original thickness.

23. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 22, further comprising the steps of:

providing both of the two edge margins with a coating; and

connecting the edge margins to form the lockseam with the coating of one edge being in engagement with the coating of the other edge in the overlap.

24. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 23, further comprising the step of forming the lockseam by folding over one edge margin around the other edge margin so that the one edge margin abuts both sides of the other edge margin.

25. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 24, further comprising the step of applying a film to the at least one metal sheet so as to form the coating on the at least one of the two edge margins.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein the film is applied to substantially all of at least one of the major surfaces of the metal sheet so as to provide a moisture barrier and/or to enhance the chemical resistance of the sheet.